

HOUSE BILL 1789
By Hensley

AN ACT to name the Tennessee National Guard Armory in Hohenwald in honor of the late Sergeant Roger D. Rowe, Tennessee Army National Guard.

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer. Always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, our State has given birth to many fine soldiers whose deeds of valor and honor have reflected favorably on the Volunteer State, even as they have inspired us all to reach for greater glory; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways, bridges, and buildings to honor the memory of those courageous members of our military forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Sergeant Roger D. Rowe, 771st Maintenance Company, Tennessee Army National Guard, who was killed in action in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, Sergeant Rowe did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Roger D. Rowe served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Rowe's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, as exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Rowe's unit, the 771st Maintenance Company, is headquartered at the Tennessee National Guard Armory in Hohenwald; and

WHEREAS, it is thus most appropriate for this General Assembly to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage and commitment to duty of the late Sergeant Roger D. Rowe by naming the Hohenwald armory in his honor; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Tennessee National Guard Armory in Hohenwald, Lewis County is hereby designated as the "Sergeant Roger D. Rowe National Guard Armory" in recognition of the life of valor and death in military action of the late Sergeant Roger D. Rowe, Tennessee Army National Guard.

SECTION 2. The Department of Military is directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such edifice as the "Sergeant Roger D. Rowe National Guard Armory".

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.